programme. The objective of the programme, which is present under implementation, is to undertake schemes relating to environmental protection, which include land-use plan, traffic and transportation plan, sewerage and drainage including water harvesting, solid waste management, plantation, landscaping and urban design plan.

(c) to (e) Under the ongoing Eco-city Programme, six towns namely Kottayam, Tirupathi, Ujjain, Vrindava, Puri and Thanjavour, having religious/ tourist importance and population less than five lakhs, have been taken up under the pilot phase during the Tenth Plan. As regards Madurai and Kanchipuram, no proposal relating to these towns is reported to have been received by the CPCB.

Iron ore mining at Kudremukh mines

3416. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Empowered Committee has recommended that all iron ore mining operations at Kudermukh mines be closed down;

(b) what are the specific reasons advanced by the CEC for closing this mine (KIOCL);

(c) to what extent the mine was closed due to the presence of a sanctuary in its area;

(d) whether the CEC will also react similarly to other areas where game sanctuaries are located; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) An Interlocutory Application (I.A. No. 670 of 2001) was filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India by K.M. Chinnapa versus Union of India and Others in WP (C) No. 202 of 1995, highlighting the negative impacts of mining operations carried out by Kudremukh Iron Ore

Company Limited (KIOCL). The Hon'ble Court referred the matter to the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) for examination and filing a report in the matter. The CEC, *inter-alia,* recommended on environmental considerations that KIOCL may be allowed to wind up its operations within five years or on exhaustion of oxidised weathered secondary ore, whichever was earlier, in already broken up area. The Hon'ble Court, by its order dated 30.10.2002, directed that mining should be allowed to be carried out by KIOCL till 31.12.2005 subject to fulfilment of the recommendations made by the CEC on ecological and other aspects. The forest area presently leased to KIOCL does not form part of Kudremukh National Park. All non-forestry activities, including mining, inside National Parks/Game Sanctuaries have been prohibited by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its order dated 14.02.2000 in WP(C) No. 202 of 1995.

Project from Arunachal Pradesh for approval

3417. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has sent some projects for approval to his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise;

(c) by when those environmental projects are likely to be cleared by Government; and

(d) the reasons for pendency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The details projects received from Government of Arunachal Pradesh during 2005-06 are given in the enclosed Statement.